

# 1 Peter 4

## 1 Peter 4.1-6 – Remaining steadfast in commitment

**V1 – Does enduring persecution make a Christian stronger or weaker?** Stronger  
-The person who has suffered persecution is less attracted to the allurements of this world

**V2** – Such Christians live more for the will of God (because of their suffering)

**V3 – Meaning?** They had already had enough time to be evil  
-**How did they (non-believers of that day) behave?** V 3c (many of the same sins as we have today)  
-"What? You go to church every Sunday? And a second service on Sunday? And Wednesday night? Are you crazy?"

**V4 – What surprises people in the world?** That our lives are not like theirs

**V5 – What should people in the world be worried about?** The coming day of judgment

**V6** – Good people had obeyed the gospel and had then died physically, but they had endured persecution in this life

## 1 Peter 4.7-11 – Encouragement to remain faithful

**V7** – According to Guy N. Woods, a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem  
-**If it does refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., what was about to come to a complete end?** The Law of Moses, the Old Testament, the entire Jewish way of life was about to end  
-When Jerusalem fell to the Roman Army in 70 A.D., it literally became impossible to ever practice Judaism again (the tribal records were destroyed, the altar was gone, the temple was gone....)  
-Some believe Peter meant that for every person the "Day of Judgment" was "imminent" (could occur at any time)  
-The Max King (70 A.D.) people believe that this was a reference to the end of the world in 70 A.D., but that is not correct – we know that the world did not end in 70 A.D.  
-**Because the end is always near as we live our lives, how should Christians behave?** Soberly and with sound judgment

**V8** – **Why did Peter recommend love for fellow Christians?** It will cover many sins

**V9** – **Why show hospitality without complaining?** It is easy to complain - "They had us over last, so I guess we have to have them over..."

**V10** – **What are we to do with gifts?** Use them in serving our fellow Christians

**V 11** – A powerful verse

- What must our preaching be like?** The utterances of God
- What does that mean?** Based on the Word of God
- This is the reason that "expository preaching" is best – the lesson is based on one passage, and the points of the passage become the points of the sermon
- This is better than topical lessons, where the emphasis is on human wisdom and not the wisdom of God
- Also, in our Bible classes, we should study straight from the Bible, starting with when children can understand reading straight from the Bible
- How are we to serve?** With all our strength
- God and Christ are to be glorified through all our actions

**1 Peter 4.12-19** – More on suffering as Christians

**V 12** – **Were they to be amazed that they were being persecuted?** No, that was the normal way of life for a Christian

**V 13** – Be glad to share in the sufferings of Christ

**V 14** – **Attitude toward persecution?** Rejoice if it is because of the name of Christ

- Notice the Trinity in v 14

**V 15** – **For what should we not be persecuted?** For common crimes (murder, stealing, disturbing the peace, etc.)

**V 16** – **What should be the cause of our suffering?** For being called Christians

- What are the other two places where the name Christian is used?**

*Acts 11.26 – And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable number; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

*Acts 26.28 – And Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”*

- This was the new name prophesied about by Isaiah:

*Isaiah 56.5 – To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.*

*Isaiah 62.2 – And the nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.*

*Isaiah 65.15 – And you will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord GOD will slay you. But My servants will be called by another name.*

**V 17** – **Meaning?** If the church (the object of God’s love) falls on hard times (persecution), what will be the outcome for the evil world?

**V 18** – An amazing verse – from *Proverbs 11.31*

*Proverbs 11.31 – If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!*

-Meaning: The righteous will barely make it to heaven - what will become of the wicked people?

**V 19** – We must entrust our souls to God, as we endure persecution

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